



Committed to the future of rural communities.

RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANT (RBOG) PROGRAM

The purpose of the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs. This is accomplished by making grants to organizations to provide for economic development planning, technical assistance, or training.

Who May Receive Grants?

To receive a RBOG, you must be a public body, nonprofit corporation, Indian tribe, or cooperative with members that are primarily rural residents. You must have sufficient expertise in the activities you propose to carry out with the grant funds and financial strength to ensure you can accomplish the objectives of the proposed grant.

What Is The Maximum Amount Of A Grant?

Grants of \$50,000 per project and multi-state projects of up to \$150,000 per project are available.

How May Grant Funds Be Used?

If awarded a RBOG, you may use the funds to pay costs of providing economic planning for rural communities, technical assistance for rural businesses, or training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials. You must be able to show that the funding will result in economic development of a rural area. Your project must include a basis for determining the success or failure of the project and assessing its impact.

What Is Included In An Application?

To develop an application, obtain a copy of the complete program regulation and refer to the application section. Briefly, an application must include a Form SF 424.1 ("Application for Federal Assistance (for Non-Construction)"), a copy of your organizational documents, a scope of work, a written narrative, and a financial statement. An application template is available upon request.

Where Can Applications Be Filed?

You may file applications with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Office in Lincoln.

How Will The Government Select Among Eligible Applications?

We will use a priority scoring system that considers the sustainability and quality of the economic activity expected to result from the project; the extent to which the project is critical to a larger overall project; economic conditions in the service area, such as recent loss of a major employer, long-term job deterioration, poverty, or population decline, and the project's usefulness as a new best practice.

New best practice/best practice project is defined as an action that has potential applicability in other rural communities and which potentially has instructional value when shared with those communities.

Rural and rural area is defined as any area of a State that is not within the boundaries of a city with a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants, according to the latest decennial census of the United States (2000 population census data will be used).

For More Information

You can obtain additional information, copies of the regulations, and forms by contacting:

USDA Rural Development

Attn: Business and Cooperative Programs Division

Federal Building, Room 152

100 Centennial Mall North

Lincoln, NE 68508-3888

Phone: (402) 437-5558 (voice)

(402) 437-5093 (TDD)

National Office Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs>

Nebraska Rural Development Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>

Nebraska State Office Telephone Number: (402) 437-5551

Nebraska State Office Facsimile Number: (402) 437-5408

Nebraska State Office TDD Number: (402) 437-5093

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Rural Development - Rural Business-Cooperative Programs

(Revised November 2005)